



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

COX HOPES TO SECURE SPRING MEET LEADING TRAINER TITLE ON STEPHEN FOSTER DAY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, June 25, 2021) – **Brad Cox** entered the final two days of racing at the Churchill Downs Spring Meet with a one-win lead over **Mike Maker** and **Brendan Walsh** for the trainer's title. The Louisville-native conditioner will attempt to secure his fourth leading trainer crown with nine horses entered Friday and Saturday lead by **Ten Strike Racing** and **Madaket Stable's Warrior's Charge** in the \$600,000 Stephen Foster (Grade II).

"We had a great meet and hope to close it out strong with some very quality horses entered over the next two days," said Cox, who recorded his 300th Churchill Downs victory Friday with **Cryo** for his 18th win of the meet.

Among Cox's nine scheduled runners over the next two days is multiple Grade III winner Warrior's Charge, who was tabbed at 6-1 on the morning line for the Stephen Foster.

"He has a pretty quick turn of foot," Cox said. "His speed has put him close to the early pace in nearly every one of his starts."

Throughout Warrior's Charge's 15-race career, he has not made the early lead in only three of his starts including his most recent race where he was off extremely slow in the \$400,000 Steve Sexton Mile (GIII) at Lone Star Park.

Saturday's Stephen Foster features **Godolphin's** Grade I-winner **Maxfield** as the 4-5 morning line favorite. The **Brendan Walsh**-trainee galloped about 1 ½ miles early Friday morning at Churchill Downs. Walsh will be the featured guest Friday on "**Inside Churchill Downs**" at 6:15 p.m. (all times Eastern) on ESPN 680/105.7. The one-hour show is also streamed live on www.espnlouisville.com.

One race prior to the Stephen Foster, Cox will start **Juddmonte's** eight-time winning homebred **Set Piece (GB)** as the 8-5 morning line choice in the \$300,000 Wise Dan (GII). Set Piece (GB) will attempt his third-consecutive win this meet after victories in the \$105,000 Opening Verse and \$85,000 Douglas Park Overnight Stakes.

"He's run some of his best race here at Churchill," Cox said. "The timing of this race set up well for us with the two other turf stakes earlier in the meet. We think he's rounding into top form this year. We got him from Juddmonte last year and thought a lot of him and he keeps improving."

Also on Saturday's card, Cox entered **Vault** in the \$300,000 Fleur de Lis (GII), **Royal Prince** in the \$150,000 War Chant and **Adventuring** in the \$150,000 Tepin.

With 23 races remaining in the meet, Cox had an 18-17 win lead over Maker and Walsh. Record 24-time leader **Steve Asmussen** sat just behind at 15 wins, and began Friday with 9,390 career victories, just 55 shy of the sport's all-time leading trainer **Dale Baird's** targeted mark of 9,445.

Saturday's first race is 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern) and the Stephen Foster will go as Race 11 with a post time of 5:59 p.m.

The 1 1/8-mile Stephen Foster and Fleur de Lis are Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" events for the \$6 million Longines Breeders' Cup Classic (GI) and \$2 million Longines Distaff, respectively. The winners will receive an all entry fees paid berth to the season ending championship event on Nov. 6 at Del Mar.

Tickets are available for Saturday's closing day program online at www.churchilldowns.com/tickets. Admission gates will open at 11:30 a.m. and "**Churchill Downs Today**" will air at 11:45 a.m. throughout the racetrack and on www.TwinSpires.com, the official online wagering provider of Churchill Downs Incorporated.

Saturday's program also will air on "**America's Day at the Races**" on Fox Sports 2 from 12:30-6:30 p.m.

MANDATORY CLOSING DAY PAYOUT FOR DERBY CITY 6 – A lucrative total Derby City 6 pool could await bettors Saturday for closing day of Churchill Downs' 38-day Spring Meet. There's a \$157,020 jackpot carryover on Friday (Races 6-11) after multiple tickets hit Thursday's six-race sequence for the 15th straight race day. The pool will be rewarding Saturday if there's not a single winning ticket Thursday or Friday.

The Derby City 6 jackpot pool only is paid if there is a single winning ticket. When multiple tickets contain six winners 90 percent of that day's pool is paid out and 10 percent is added to the jackpot carryover.

Because Saturday is closing day, there will be a mandatory Derby City 6 payout with all monies distributed to ticket holders with the most winners in the six-race series. Saturday's all-stakes Derby City 6, which only costs 20 cents per combination, will cover Races 7-12 starting at approximately 3:50 p.m. (all times Eastern).

Saturday's closing day sequence features 61 entered horses for an average of 10.2 entries per race:

- Race 7: \$150,000 War Chant, 3-year-olds, one mile on turf, eight entries
- Race 8: \$150,000 Debutante (Listed), 2-year-old fillies, six furlongs, 10 entries
- Race 9: \$150,000 Bashford Manor (Grade III), 2-year-olds, six furlongs, 11 entries
- Race 10: \$300,000 Wise Dan (Grade II), 4-year-olds and up, 1 1/16 miles on turf, 10 entries
- Race 11: \$600,000 Stephen Foster (Grade II), 4-year-olds and up, 1 1/8 miles, nine entries
- Race 12: \$150,000 Tepin, 3-year-old fillies, one mile on turf, 13 entries

Takeout on the Derby City 6 is just 15 percent, which is one of the lowest multi-race wager takeout rates in American racing.

The last time the jackpot was paid was Saturday, May 29 – Stephen Foster Preview Day – when Churchill Downs had a mandatory force-out of the jackpot with a \$150,655 carryover. That day's pool was \$1,236,502 and all-sources handle on the 11-race program eclipsed \$14 million.

Fans can wager on the Derby City 6 on track at Churchill Downs; www.TwinSpires.com, the track's official online wagering platform; other online wagering outlets; and select satellite betting centers throughout North America.

Saturday's 12-race closing day card featuring seven stakes events starts at 12:45 p.m.

TWINSPIRES.COM'S SHAPIRO OFFERS FANS SUGGESTED DERBY CITY 6 WAGER – TwinSpires.com handicapper **Scott Shapiro** has offered handicappers a suggested play for Saturday's mandatory payout in the all-stakes Derby City 6 wager.

Here are Shapiro's thoughts:

"Saturday's mandatory payout in the Derby City 6 offers horseplayers an all-stakes sequence with star power to close the spring meeting. Brendan Walsh and Godolphin's Maxfield will understandably be the most popular single in the featured Stephen Foster with the War Chant and Tepin likely to be races where the public spreads in hopes of catching a price. Best of luck on the amazing Closing Day card!

Suggested Ticket cost \$43.20 (pending scratches): 5-6-7/3-8/2-4/3/4-7-8/1-3-5-7-11-12"

Fans can bet the Derby City 6 on www.TwinSpires.com, the official wagering provider of Churchill Downs Incorporated.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Friday's 11-race card had a first post of 12:45 p.m. The featured 10th race was the \$110,000 Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes. There was a \$157,020 carryover in the 20-cent Derby City 6 (Races 6-11) and \$4,817 carryover in the \$1 Super Hi 5 in Race 11. ... Trainer **Eddie Kenneally** was one win away from 1,000-career victories. He had three horses entered Friday. ... Owner/trainer **Jon Jazdzewski** won a 38-way shake Thursday for \$8,000 claimer **Our Musical Moment** in Race 1. ... Fans can download Brisnet past performances for Saturday's Stephen Foster Day card at www.churchilldowns.com/handicapping.

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